

league, Hon. OLIVER P. BOLTON. The editorial follows:

AN EXCELLENT IDEA

We wish Congressman OLIVER P. BOLTON, Republican of Ohio success in his attempt to have Federal buildings in Washington properly marked so that each could be easily identifiable from the sidewalk or from a passing vehicle.

After having heard the question of visitors, "What's that building over there?" a few thousand times, Congressman BOLTON decided to investigate.

"I found some Government buildings labeled only with tiny plaques near the entrance bearing the agency's name or initials in small print," BOLTON reported. "Others were marked only with a number or street address; and still others carried hard-to-find names inscribed near the top of the building."

A uniform system of marking would, indeed, end much confusion among visitors, and the cost would more than be justified. We hope the idea succeeds.

The Supreme Court's Grab for Power

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. BURR P. HARRISON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 1956

Mr. HARRISON of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Appendix of the RECORD, I include an editorial from the Richmond (Va.) News-Leader from the pen of its brilliant editor, Jack Kilpatrick.

The editorial contains the ablest review of the sweeping grab for power by the Judges of the Supreme Court into all fields of human endeavor.

The editorial follows:

THE STATES REACH ARMAGEDDON

There could have been no real surprise among observers of the United States Supreme Court at the Court's arrogant action yesterday in rejecting an appeal sought by the South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. in a bus-segregation case. The Court announced, in its own contemptuous fashion, that the petition was filed "without authority of law" and "needlessly consumed our time."

In the view of many thoughtful attorneys, the South Carolina petition was no waste of time. It challenged a breathtaking stretch of the Constitution. The case arose when Sarah Mae Flemming, a Negro woman, sued the buss company for damages because a bus driver required her to change her seat in accordance with South Carolina law. Her suit was dismissed in the Federal district court, but on appeal to the Fourth United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Judges Parker, Soper, and Dobie last summer reversed the district court and ordered the suit tried.

In their opinion of July 14, 1955, the circuit court judges called attention to the Supreme Court's opinion of May 17, 1954, in the school segregation cases. Here the Supreme Court, after terming education "perhaps the most important function of State and local governments," held that "in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." But though the Supreme Court had carefully confined its ruling to "the field of public education," the Fourth Circuit Court held, in the South Carolina case, that the doctrine of "separate but equal" had been repudiated not only as to schools, but in every other field also.

That was a big jump for the circuit court to take. Hundreds of other appeals, involv-

ing modifications of long-standing law far less severe, have been reviewed by the Supreme Court in other years. But this time, the South Carolina company's petition "needlessly consumed our time." With that abrupt and high-handed stroke of its pen, the Supreme Court snatched from the States a part of their inherent police power, daily exercised by the States for generations.

It was, we say again, no surprise. In trip-hammer succession, the Supreme Court of the United States has taken from the States their clear power to maintain racially separate public schools. It has deprived them of the power to regulate their own natural resources. It has seized their authority over nonnavigable waters wholly within their borders. It has voided the sedition laws of 42 States. It has invaded their right to fix conditions for the employment of college professors. Now it has distorted the 14th amendment to make it read that no State may regulate seating on wholly local buses; merely to separate the races is to abridge the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States.

The States have reached Armageddon. By successive assaults upon the Constitution, the Supreme Court has undertaken, in effect, to repeal the 10th amendment and to write into the 14th amendment sweeping new provisions to which the States have never consented. The Court has usurped the amendatory powers reserved to the States in article V of the Constitution. The Court has established itself as a superlegislature. It has arrogated unto itself a power, never given the Court, to twist and shape the Constitution as a thing of wax or putty.

If ever the time has come when the States should take urgent counsel among themselves, that time is now. The Federal Government they created is devouring them.

This crisis transcends any particular question of schools or buses, or gas or oil or water or sedition laws. It goes to the very heart and soul of our constitutional Union. If the Court is not checked—if the States fail to reestablish the dual structure of our Union—the Court will have achieved, by judicial legislation, what the Convention of 1787 resolutely refused to approve: It will have saddled upon us a consolidated government; it will have reduced the States to nullities and placed all meaningful power in the hands of a national authority.

The one possible check upon the Court, in our view, lies in interposition by the States. They, and they alone, by concerted action may restore a constitutional balance of powers. Five States already have interposed their sovereignty in the matter of school segregation; North Carolina and Louisiana are expected to raise the number to seven this spring. But the matter cannot be met regionally; it cannot be met on the single issue of schools or segregation. It can be met only if the States reclaim their clear powers, assemble in convention as they did in 1787, and dedicate themselves to a rewriting of our Constitution in order to repair the damage the Court has done.

Outstanding Negro Leadership in Jacksonville Acclaimed

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. CHARLES E. BENNETT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 1956

Mr. BENNETT of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Afro-American Life Insurance Co. this week moved into its new \$1,085,000 office building in Jacksonville,

Fla. This marks an important milestone in the history of this company, discussed in the following newspaper account in the Jacksonville Journal. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Negro leadership which founded and carries forward this important financial institution. Moreover, the article mentions another Negro leader in Jacksonville, who is now primarily known for his great philanthropic and social work, Eartho M. M. White. As to her I can truly say that all of Jacksonville is her debtor for her Christian spirit and her good works of all kinds through a long and fruitful life. I am proud as her Congressman to express my gratitude for her fine life. The article is as follows:

INSURANCE COMPANY 55 YEARS OLD—NEGRO FIRM NOW IN BIG TIME

(By Doug Danford)

Fifty-five years ago 7 men got together in Jacksonville and chipped in \$100 apiece to form a company that today has assets of \$8,400,000.

The men were Negroes and their company has grown into the Afro-American Life Insurance Co., which is now moving into its new \$1,085,000 home office building at 101 East Union Street. Dedication ceremonies will be held Sunday afternoon.

It was January 15, 1901, that the seven founders met in Bethel Baptist Institutional Church at the invitation of the pastor, the Rev. J. Milton Waldron. Oldtimers say the minister was disturbed because Bethel's burial society had just been bankrupted by the death of two members. (Dues were 10 cents a week and the death benefit was supposed to be \$30, which was the full price of a funeral in those days.)

Waldron sold the others on a large-scale burial society and on March 4, 1901, Gov. William S. Jennings signed a charter for the Afro-American Industrial and Benefit Association for the United States of America. Waldron became secretary and the first president was another minister the Reverend Elias J. Gregg, of Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church. The other founders:

J. F. Valentine, a Western Union lineman; A. W. Price, business manager of a weekly, the Florida Evangelist; Dr. Arthur W. Smith, physician; E. W. Latson, a bricklayer; and Abraham Lincoln Lewis, a 34-year-old planer who was working in Cashen's Mill.

On April 1 the new firm opened for business at 14 Ocean Street, using the front part of the Florida-Evangelist's printshop. A few weeks later the Afro narrowly escaped being wiped out; the clerk came back from lunch on May 3 to find the great fire bearing down on the premises and she paid a drayman \$2 to haul the entire corporation—records, furniture, and a small rug—to safety in Oakland. That clerk was Eartha Mary Magdalene White, who left the business world for full-time social work and is still going strong.

After the excitement subsided, the company office was set up in the dining room of the treasurer, A. L. Lewis, at 621 Florida Avenue. They moved in 1902 to 609 Main Street, then to 722 Main, and finally, in 1910, built a two-story brick home office at Ocean and Union that has served until now.

A bookkeeper has preserved one of the company's first policies. The document was decorated with an assortment of woodcuts: A beehive, symbol of industriousness; a reclining St. Bernard, symbolic of tenacity; a loosely draped Columbia, leaning on an anchor peering seaward, whose symbolism is unclear. For the premium of 15 cents each Monday the association promised to pay \$30 upon the death of the insured. In the small print, probably as a hedge against a catastrophic epidemic, the company mentions that only one-half of the \$30 will be paid within the first 6 months after death.